

For a Second Consecutive Year Amnesty Day at the Holtsville Ecology Site is a Tremendous Success

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Farmingville, NY – Three American alligators and eight turtles were turned in on Amnesty Day at the Holtsville Ecology Site on October 10th. The average size of a fully grown female American alligator is a little more than eight feet long and the average size of a fully grown male is a little more than 11 feet long. The two male alligators were 27 and 29 inches long when they were turned in, with the female being measured at 32 inches long. All eleven of these reptiles will go to an animal sanctuary in Massachusetts.

Chief Roy Gross of the Suffolk County SPCA said, "The amnesty day was a successful event bringing in 11 reptiles including three alligators that may of had the potential of ending up endangering the public. People should think twice before acquiring illegal reptiles or mammals. They do not make good pets and you are risking fines and

possible jail time."

"The bottom line is these animals were turned in before the people harboring them as pets released them into the wild, creating a potentially dangerous situation in our local communities," said Brookhaven Highway Superintendent Daniel P. Losquadro. "These animals will now receive proper care without posing a threat. I want to thank the Suffolk County SPCA, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for working with Brookhaven to host this event at the Ecology Site and provide people with an opportunity to do the right thing for these animals with no questions asked."

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "People need to understand that many exotic animals can be very dangerous if not handled properly or allowed to grow to their adult size. They are even more threatening if released into the wild, where they could harm people or other animals. I commend Superintendent Losquadro and Chief Gross for generating awareness of this problem and for giving people an opportunity to do the right thing and surrender the animals without retribution."

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One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone 631-451-6595